

January 23, 2013

Dear Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee:

My husband and family live and ranch along the Judith River. Our family irrigates hay and waters cows out of the Judith River and Wolf Creek and truly recognizes the value of water rights. After hauling water for 13 years, we drilled a well 2,880 ft. deep so water is precious to us.

I have attended all the water compact commission meetings concerning these water rights and am very pleased with the considerable changes that have been negotiated. The removal of the impending closure of the Judith Basin watershed and removal of the cap on future development are especially significant, as is changing the date of enforcement of the Monument's water rights from 2001 to June 1, 2012.

In all honesty, we are not pleased that the Monument was formed or that it decrees that a measure of water be "set aside" to water the 15 acres of "cottonwood gallery forest ecosystem" that are along the Judith River, on BLM land, within the Monument. That being said, however, our ability to make a living ranching will not be adversely affected by the 160 cfs water right now being requested. We appreciate the spirit of cooperation witnessed and are confident that we could not negotiate a better proposal privately, therefore support SB 88.

Thank you

Laura Boyce
Dan Boyce